

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /053 W
-----109019 202116Z /63

R 202025Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3385
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

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NESCO
VIENNA FOR UNIDO
E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: GENEVA GROUP MEETING

REF: A) PARIS 23089 B) STATE 272847 C) GENEVA 11036

1. AT FIRST SESSION OF GENEVA GROUP (GG) TO BE CHAIRED
BY US AMB TORRES, GG MEMBERS, ALL OF WHOM WERE PRESENT,
DISCUSSED 1) RESULTS OF 103 EXBD ON BUDGETARY ITEMS (4.1
AND 4.2); 2) QUESTION OF THE "TOTALITY OF RESOURCES"
AVAILABLE TO UNESCO DURING 1981-82 BIENNIAL; AND 3)
VISIT OF A SMALL GG DELEGATION WITH M'BOW TO DISCUSS GG
BUDGETARY CONCERNS.

2. PERM DEL AID ATTACHE LED OFF WITH RESUME OF L03 EXBD
DECISIONS ON MATTERS RELATED TO 1979-80 BUDGET. HE
POINTED OUT THAT BOARD'S UNANIMOUS ADOPTION OF 103 EXBD
WORKING GROUP RESOLUTION ON THIS ITEM CONFIRMED THAT
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BUDGET GROWTH RATE PERCENTAGES ARE "INDICATIVE" AND NOT
AS DG WOULD HAVE PREFERRED, BINDING. FURTHERMORE, EXBD
DECISION ELIMINATED CONCEPT OF "SHORTFALL" BY WHICH THE
DG WOULD HAVE HOPED TO "MAKE UP" BIENNIAL SHORTAGES OVER
TIME SPAN OF MEDIUM TERM PLAN. (NOTE: THIS PLAN
EMBODIES A 6 TO 6.9 PERCENT "RECOMMENDED" RATE OF REAL
PROGRAM GROWTH OVER THE PERIOD, AND WAS ADOPTED BY

CONSENSUS AT THE 19TH GEN CONF - FALL, 1976.)

3. FRG DEPUTY PERM REP CAUTIONED THAT EVEN IF EXBD DECISION HAD ESTABLISHED THAT 6 TO 6.9 PERCENT MEDIUM TERM GROWTH RATE WAS NOT LEGALLY BINDING, DG WOULD STILL CONSIDER IT A MORAL AND POLITICAL OBLIGATION. THUS THE GG FOR PRACTICAL REASONS SHOULD FIND AN ABSOLUTE BUDGET FIGURE WHICH THE GROUP WOULD AGREE TO SUPPORT. WHILE SOME PROGRAMS MIGHT BE INCREASED, ECONOMIES MUST BE FOUND ELSEWHERE IN ORDER TO HOLD REAL PROGRAM GROWTH TO ZERO. THIS WAS ALSO THE CANADIAN VIEW.

4. UK REP SAID IT WILLING TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE SOME REAL GROWTH IN BUDGET IN ACCORDANCE WITH GROWTH PRINCIPLE EMBODIED IN MEDIUM TERM PLAN. UK PREFERS TO LOOK AT PROGRAM BEFORE COMMITTING ITSELF TO A FIGURE. FURTHERMORE, AS DG HAS ALREADY COMMENTED IN AUG 5 RESPONSE TO GG REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON BUDGET QUESTION THAT TIME FOR DISCUSSION WAS AT 19TH GEN CONF (REFTEL A), FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE CONSIDERED PROVOCATIVE. (COMMENT: THIS VIEW IS CONTRARY TO WHAT PERM DEL UNDERSTANDS IS UK POSITION ON BUDGETARY MATTERS IN OTHER UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND WE SUSPECT, REFLECTS EXBD CHAIRMAN LEN MARTIN'S (UK) VIEW OF THE MATTER.)

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5. QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT IT ALREADY TOO LATE TO INFLUENCE 1979-80 BUDGET LEVEL UNDERLAID THE DISCUSSION. MEMBERS AGREED THAT ONCE 20 C/5 (BIANNUAL PROGRAM AND BUDGET) IS PREPARED AND PRINTED (BEGINNING LATE IN JANUARY), FOR DISTRIBUTION PRIOR TO THE 104 EXBD--SPRING, 1978), THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POSSIBILITY FOR CHANGING IT. SUPPORT GREW, THEREFORE, FOR PROPOSING A GG MEETING WITH M'BOW DURING JANUARY TO DISCUSS GG CONCERN GENERALLY OVER BUDGETARY GROWTH IN UNESCO, BEING CAREFUL TO ASSURE DG THAT THIS ACTION NOT POINTED ONLY AT UNESCO, BUT ENCOMPASSES ALL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IN REQUESTING MEETING, GG WILL REFERENCE DG'S AUG 5 "INVITATION" TO MEET WITH GROUP AT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TIME. DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE AMB TORRES (US), AMB BEAULNE (CANADA), AMB CARDUCCI (ITALY), AND AMB VAN USSEL (BELGIUM). NEXT GG MEETING WILL BE CONVENED AFTER GG DELEGATION MEETING WITH DG.

6. NOTING DG'S AUG 5 COMMENT THAT GG HAD ALREADY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON GUIDELINES FOR 1979-80 BUDGET AT 19TH GEN CONF, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF TIMETABLE IN UNESCO'S BUDGET PREPARATIONS, US DEL OFF RECOMMENDED THAT

GG BEGIN DISCUSSING 1981-82 BUDGET POSITION NOW, WELL IN

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ADVANCE OF 20 GEN CONF.

7. AMB VAN USSEL ALSO SUGGESTED THAT GG UNESCO SHOULD MAKE USE OF THE "EXCELLENT" GG (ROME) STATEMENT TO FAO MANAGEMENT. HE RECALLED THAT THIS REPRESENTS FIRST TIME THAT ANY GG HAS BEEN ABLE TO AGREE ON A POSITION STATEMENT PUTTING INTO CONCRETE LANGUAGE THAT GG MEMBERS CANNOT ACCEPT GREATER INCREASES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION BUDGETS, THAN ARE APPLIED DOMESTICALLY. MEMBERS AGREED TO MAKE THIS AVAILABLE TO M'BOW, AND ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY FOR CIRCULATING IT AT THE 104 EXBD.

8. PERM REP ALSO INTRODUCED CONCEPT OF "THE TOTALITY OF RESOURCES" AVAILABLE TO UNESCO (PER REQUEST REFTEL B), UNDERLINING FACT THAT CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER THAN THOSE ASSESSED BY ORGANIZATIONS MAKE UP A VERY SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO UNESCO. PERM DEL'S ESTIMATE FOR 1977-78 WAS 139 MILLION DOLLARS, FOR '79-80,
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160 MILLION DOLLARS. NOTING THAT THE PROPORTION OF UNDP CONTRIBUTIONS SEEM TO BE GRADUALLY FALLING, WITH MEMBER STATES' "VOLUNTARY" CONTRIBUTIONS ASSUMING AN INCREASING IMPORTANCE, PERM REP ASKED IF MEMBERS WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE ESTIMATES FOR WHAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE FOR THE 1981-82 BIENNIUM.

9. "TOTALITY OF RESOURCES" TOPIC PRODUCED LITTLE REACTION APART FROM OBVIOUS INTEREST IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE LARGE SIZE OF THE "NON-ASSESSED" CONTRIBUTIONS. SWEDISH PERM REP, HOWEVER, DID LINK RISING PROPORTION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARABS, AND SUGGESTED THAT GG SHOULD WATCH THIS CLOSELY FOR OBVIOUS POLITICAL REASONS. IN VIEW OF RESPONSE BY GG (GENEVA) TO THIS ITEM (REFTEL C), PERM DEL DID NOT PUSH FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. (WE WOULD REQUEST DEPT'S LATEST VIEWS ON SUBJECT SINCE SUPPORT IN CAPITALS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ESTIMATING FUTURE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

10. GG MEMBERS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE A VALUABLE EXERCISE TO HOLD MEETING WITH UK AND US BUDGET EXPERTS, AS WELL AS WITH CO-CHAIRMAN OF GG (GENEVA), SOMETIME AT END OF JAN OR FIRST OF FEB. DATE AND AGENDA WILL BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING WHICH WILL FOLLOW GG DELEGATION'S DEMARCHE TO M'BOW.
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